

CORNERSTONE IN FOCUS: Chartered Value Exchanges Will Receive Medicare Physician Performance Results from CMS

Congratulations to the nearly 40 collaboratives who applied for designation as a Chartered Value Exchange (CVE). A comprehensive peer review process is underway, after which HHS will announce those that have been selected. In the coming months, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt and other HHS officials will travel the country to celebrate communities' successes, discuss next steps for CVEs, and promote an exciting new Electronic Health Record demonstration project.

As CVEs, local collaboratives will have access to a Learning Network sponsored by HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This network will be a place where the CVEs can share best practices and receive technical assistance. They will also be eligible to receive Medicare physician quality performance measurement results from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The results will be provided at the physician group practice level and will not identify individual beneficiaries or individual physicians. Ultimately, this will help to stimulate quality improvement and consumer choice in communities by providing a more comprehensive picture of physician quality for consumers, providers, and other stakeholders.

In the future, it is envisioned that CVEs will be able to combine Medicare results with results generated from the private-sector sources, producing all-payer physician performance measurement results. Learn more from this [CVE fact sheet](#).

Broadband Deployment Helps Deliver Better Rural Health Care

Secretary Leavitt and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin J. Martin recently announced the Rural Health Care Pilot Program, an initiative which will dedicate more than \$400 million to facilitate the deployment of broadband access to nearly 70 rural areas throughout the country. The Pilot will facilitate the delivery of health care services to rural America in a manner that is efficient, reduces costs and travel time for patients, decreases medical errors, and allows providers to share information electronically.

A key part of this broad effort is developing a nationwide health information exchange that would enable clinicians to access an always-up-to-date Electronic Health Record for a patient who has authorized it, regardless of when and where the patient receives care. This would not be a national database, but rather a set of standards and secure networks that would allow a doctor or hospital to immediately gather relevant information by computer network. Learn more about the [Rural Health Care Pilot Program](#).

Profile of a Community Leader: Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative

This month, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) celebrates its 10th year as a multi-stakeholder coalition devoted to improving the safety, quality and efficiency of health care in Southwestern Pennsylvania. In the decade since its founding, PRHI has supported clinicians in proving the value of these principles through dozens of demonstrations targeting both clinical and operational problems in outpatient, acute, and long-term care settings.

PRHI also was a national forerunner in championing quality improvement to help bring down runaway health care costs and advocating for payment reform as an essential ingredient for lasting reform in health care.



Supported by a record number of corporate signatories, PRHI became a Community Leader for Value-Driven Health Care in March 2007. Visit the [PRHI Web site](#) [EXIT Disclaimer](#) to learn more about the organization. For more information on the characteristics of a Community Leader or to sign up, visit the [Value-Driven](#) Web site.



"Every American should have access to a full range of information about the quality and cost of their health care options."

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt